



Missouri Department of Natural Resources Herculaneum Lead Contamination Cleanup

Oct. 15, 2001 Progress Report

Last week's The Missouri Department of Natural Resources issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to the Doe Run Company for placement of a contaminant that could cause pollution to waters of the state. The NOV was based on the 300,000 parts per million sample taken from the haul routes on Aug. 21, 2001. Staff responded to an emergency response on Oct. 9, 2001. Four gallons of hydraulic oil spilled on Joachim Creek Bridge. Oil dry, similar to kitty litter, was spread and worked thoroughly into the oil then swept up. This process was repeated several times to remove the oil. No environmental damage occurred because of these steps taken.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established four high-volume air monitors along the haul routes, with one near the facility property. EPA has sent 75 soil and roadway dust samples and 24 indoor samples to the lab for analysis. Doe Run's contractor has sampled about 135 yards for lead concentrations. Five residential yards have been cleaned up by the Doe Run Company under EPA oversight and order. The Doe Run Company continued cleaning the streets with its street sweeper.

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MDOHSS) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) started going door-to-door to offer blood lead screening to any resident who consented.

Upcoming activities: The department will maintain daily presence in Herculaneum to oversee work, document any problems and issue enforcement directives. This typically includes investigating complaints, monitoring for fugitive dust, sampling storm water and water from the vehicle washing facilities and inspecting the vehicle washing facility at Doe Run to ensure proper washing is conducted.

EPA will continue to conduct indoor sampling. The number of residences sampled will depend on information obtained from yard sampling and health information on blood lead levels. Contractors will finish collecting soil samples from an estimated 120 yards for lead concentrations. EPA will send haul route dust samples to ATSDR to conduct a health consultation. MDOHSS and ATSDR will conclude the door-to-door blood lead screening for the entire city of Herculaneum. MDOHSS will present data from the August 2001 blood lead screen at the Oct. 16, 2001, Community Action Group meeting.

For more information, contact the Missouri Department of Natural Resources at 1-800-361-4827 or (573) 526-6627 or visit the Web at www.dnr.state.mo.us/deq/herc.htm.